

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 128302 TOSEC 020247

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: JWOLF:WLT

APPROVED BY S/S-O: PKJOHNSON

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 8: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. LEBANON: GENERAL STRIKE ENFORCED IN BEIRUT

LEBANESE PHLANGISTS AND MEMBERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT
CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL LIBERATION PARTY (NLP)
DECLARED A GENERAL STRIKE JUNE 2, AND WERE ABLE, WITH
CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, TO ENFORCE IT THROUGHOUT BEIRUT.
ACCORDING TO OUR EMBASSY:

--THE STRIKE WAS IN PROTEST OVER THE JUNE 1 KILLING OF
NAIM BARDAQAN, CHAMOUN'S AIDE-DE-CAMP AND COMMANDER OF
THE NLP MILITIA.

--HEAVY FIRING AND SOME KIDNAPPING CONTINUED DURING THE
NIGHT OF JUNE 1 AND INTO THE MORNING OF JUNE 2.

--PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME, MEANWHILE, MET WITH PRESI-
DENT FRANGIE AN? PURSUED EFFORTS TO FORM A CABINET.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 128302 TOSEC 020247

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE MURDER OF BARDAQAN AND THE NLP'S RESPONSE POINTS TO THE THREAT OF CONTINUED FIGHTING INCREASINGLY ASSUMING RELIGIOUS OVERTONES. IT COULD ALSO POLARIZE BOTH THE MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN PERSONALITIES WHO, AS THE NLP LEADERS PREVIOUSLY HAD, HAVE SO FAR SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THEIR NEUTRALITY TO EXERT A CALMING INFLUENCE.

2. SYRIANS KEEP PRESSURE ON IRAQ

EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT THE SYRIANS CONTINUE TO PRESS IRAQ IN THEIR DISPUTE OVER THE EUPHRATES. THE MEDIA RUNS DAILY JUSTIFICATIONS OF THE SYRIAN POSITION AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS BY BOTH COUNTRIES. COMMENTING ON THESE REPORTS:

--CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT THE SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS ARE DEFENSIVE, AND REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT IRAQ IS DEEPLY DIVIDED AND UNSTABLE.

--FOREIGN MINISTRY AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHAFI HAS INDICATED THAT THE TROOP MOVEMENTS SERVE TO ALLAY ASAD'S CRITICS WITHIN THE MILITARY AND ENCOURAGE DISSIDENTS WITHIN THE IRAQI MILITARY WHO MIGHT MOVE TO OPPOSE SADDAM HUSSEIN.

--THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR DOUBTED EITHER SIDE INTENDS A MILITARY CONFRONTATION, PREDICATED THE DISPUTE WILL DISSIPATE EVENTUALLY, AND INDICATED THE USSR DOES NOT SEEK, AND HAS NOT BEEN ASKED, TO ASSUME A MEDIATING ROLE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SHIHABI'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE SARG MAY NOW EXPECT THE UPHEAVAL IN IRAQ FOR WHICH IT HAS LONG HOPED.

3. SUDAN CRITICIZES PALESTINIANS

CITING THE PALESTINIANS AS TERRORISTS WHO CONSTANTLY COUNTERVENE ARAB LAW, FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSECRETARY MIRGHANI TOLD AMBASSADOR BREWER:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 128302 TOSEC 020247

--HE HOPED THE FORD-SADAT MEETING WOULD HELP SOLVE THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS.

--ONCE ARRANGEMENTS WERE OFFERED WHICH GUARANTEED PALESTINIANS A PLACE OF THEIR OWN ON THE WEST BANK, OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO FORGET THEM, AND PUBLIC OPINION, TOO, WOULD CEASE TO SYMPA-

THIZE WITH THEM.

--HOWEVER, HE HAD GRAVE DOUBTS THAT THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE COULD, BY ITSELF, RATIFY SUCH DECISIONS.

4. FURTHER U.S. TROOP REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

FURTHER U.S. TROOP REDUCTIONS WERE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING
THE JUNE 2 MEETING OF THE THAI-U.S. COORDINATING COM-
MITTEE. THEY INCLUDE:

--A 7500 SPACE DRAWDOWN BY JUNE 30, 1975.

--WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SEVENTEEN B-52 BOMBERS, BEGINNING
JUNE 6, AND ALL THIRTY ONE F-111 FIGHTER BOMBERS, BE-
GINNING JUNE 15; AND

--THE CLOSING OF UBON RTAFB.

5. ETHIOPIA

A. GOE CRITICAL OF SUDANESE POSITION ON ERITREA

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL, FOREIGN
MINISTER KIFLE INDICATED STRONG RESENTMENT OF RECENT
SUDANESE STATEMENTS CONCERNING ARAB NONINVOLVEMENT IN
ERITREA, AND SAID:

--SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S STATEMENTS NOT WITH
STANDING, THE ONLY REASON NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT GONE
FORWARD IS BECAUSE THE INSURGENTSHAVE BEEN UNABLE TO
ACHIEVE A UNIFIED POSITION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 128302 TOSEC 020247

--MANY ARAB COUNTRIES ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT
THEIR SUPPORT FOR ERITREA, SINCE IT OPENS THEM TO
POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH AFRICAN STATES WHO SUPPORT
THE OAU CHARTER'S PROVISIONS ON NON-INTERFERENCE
AND SANCTITY OF BORDERS.

--THE GOE DOES NOT WISH THE ERITREAN QUESTION RAISED
AT THE OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA OR THE ARAB SUMMIT IN
MOGADISCIO.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOE RECOGNIZES IT WOULD BE HARSHLY
CRITICIZED FOR ITS SEVERE MILITARY REACTION IF ERITREA
IS DISCUSSED AT EITHER MEETING.

B. GOE TO RECONSIDER KAGNEW AGREEMENT?

KIFLE ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR HUMMEL THAT THE GOE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. PLANNED TO WITHDRAW ALL COMPONENTS FROM KAGNEW NAVCOMSTA BY JULY 1975, OR, IN ANY CASE BEFORE THE END OF THE BASIC AGREEMENT ON 1978. HE INDICATED THAT, IF THE U.S. WISHES A SMALL CONTINGENT TO REMAIN THERE INDEFINITELY, THE GOE WILL HAVE TO RECONSIDER THE WHOLE MATTER.

6. GREECE TENTATIVELY ACCEPTS BASE NEGOTIATION SCHEDULE

DURING A MEETING WITH DCM STEARNS, AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS AGREED:

--IT WOULD NOT BE DESIREABLE TO FIX A DATE FOR ROUND 111, ALTHOUGH IF SUBGROUP DISCUSSIONS PROCEED SMOOTHLY, IT MIGHT BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER.

--SUBGROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE HELLENIKON AIRBASE AND ELEFSIS PIER WILL BEGIN IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE.

--TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE SOFA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WILL BEGIN LATER THIS SUMMER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE TIMING AND WORK PROGRAM APPEAR TO MEET OUR NEEDS. HOWEVER, THE GOG VIEWS THE BASE NE-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 128302 TOSEC 020247

GOTIATIONS IN POLITICAL TERMS. IF ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE TALKS, EVEN FOR A REASON UNRELATED TO THEM, THE GOG WILL CERTAINLY SEEK TO SPEED UP THE TIMETABLE AND ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ALREADY REACHED IN PRINCIPLE.

7. THE MULTINATIONAL PROBLEM AS SEEN FROM CARACAS

FOLLOWING A CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM ABOUT THE GULF OIL BRIBERY CHARGES AND A SUGGESTION BY PERUVIAN OAS AMBASSADOR ALVARADO THAT THE OAS INVESTIGATE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AMBASSADOR SHLAUOERMAN SUGGESTS:

--WE ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THE USG ONLY CONCERNS ITSELF WHEN U.S. CORPORATIONS ARE SINNED AGAINST, NOT WHEN THEY ARE THE SINNERS.

--THE PROBLEM IS BECOMING SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT ANOTHER U.S. EFFORT.

--TO IMPROVE OUR POSITION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE OAS,
AND PREVENT UNILATERAL IMPOSITION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT,
WE SHOULD, THEREFORE,RENEW THE SECRETARY'S CALL FOR
ANOTHER TRY AT ESTABLISHING INTERGOVERNMENTAL MECHANISMS
FOR CONSULTAION ON INVESTMENT DISPUTES AND CONFLICTING
LAWS AND JURISDICTIONS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, GENERAL STRIKES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE128302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: JWOLF:WLT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750192-0686
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750686/aaaadahc.tel
Line Count: 229
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 8: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY
TAGS: PINS, OVIP, LE
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006